are estimated for Manganese – 92.59 MMT, Nickel – 4.70 MMT, Copper – 4.29 MMT, and Cobalt – 0.55 MMT. A first generation minesite has been identified on the basis of detailed survey. The Environmental Impact Assessment Study pertaining to the assessment of benthic impact and restoration of marine environment has also been completed. A pilot scale semi-continuous metallurgical plant was set up and the process package for extraction of metal values has been validated. The results indicated that the process efficiencies exceeded design basis. A prototype mining system was designed, developed and tested at a water depth of 451 meters as a part of stagewise development of mining system for exploitation of nodules from seabed.

(b) The amount spent on various activities (Survey and Exploration, Environment Impact Assessment Study, Technology Development-Extractive Metallurgy and Technology Development- Mining) of the project since its inception in 1982-83, is about Rs. 262.486 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology

2881. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commercial application of radio isotopes is a success;

(b) if so, the profit derived from Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) is engaged in commercial application of Radiation and Radioisotope Technology in the field of health care, agriculture, industry and research. Activities of BRIT are based on research reactors and other facilities of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and have led to large scale societal benefits and is clearly a success story. Presently, cash based government accounting system is in operation. BRIT is cash surplus in its operations.

Private practice scheme in Tata Memorial Centre

2882. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any private practice scheme has been implemented in Tata Memorial Centre;

(b) if so, whether Government has given prior sanction to this scheme; and

(c) how much money has been given to doctors under this scheme in the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is a scheme for Sharing of Hospital Income (SHI) in Tata Memorial Centre.

(b) This scheme has the approval of the Government.

(c) Rs. 612 lakh in the year 2008.

Additional nuclear plants

2883. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed for setting up additional nuclear plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) the quantum of additional energy planned to be produced by each of them;

(d) the total quantity of electricity generated through Heavy Water Reactors and Light Water Reactors so far, separately;

(e) whether electricity generated through nuclear power plants is cost effective and has benefits over other sources of energy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to augment harnessing of atomic energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Government has accorded inprinciple approval for sites for locating nuclear power plants at Kakrapar (2 × 700 MWe) in Gujarat and Rawatbhata (2 × 700 MWe) in Rajasthan. Similarly inprinciple approval has been accorded for sites at Kudankulam and Jaitapur for setting up Light Water Reactors through imports. More nuclear power plants at additional sites are also planned. However, details are not yet finalized.

(d) Out of the total installed nuclear power capacity of 4120 MWe, 320 MWe is based on Light Water Reactors and balance 3800 MWe is based on Heavy Water Reactors.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The tariffs of nuclear power are competitive with that of coal fired thermal power stations at locations away from coal mines. In addition nuclear power is clean and environment friendly, as it has no Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

The current installed capacity of 4120 MWe will reach 7280 MWe progressively by the year 2011 by completion of projects under construction. More reactors, both of indigenous designs and based on international co-operation are planned to increase the nuclear power capacity.

Basic and mobile telephone services

2884. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of public and private sector companies providing basic and mobile telephone services in the country;